Besides, about 80% of the Ninth Plan Outlay (Rs. 2450 crore) of the North-Eastern Council (NEC) is being spent to develop infrastructure of the N.E. Region.

**Proposal to Downsize Government Machinery**

†130. SHRI RAJMOHINDER SINGH:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the newsitem captioned "Shourie wants Government to be Downsized" published in the Business Standard, dated 4th January, 2000.

(b) if so, whether any proposal to cut in Government machinery is being considered by Government;

(c) if so, the detailed outlines of the proposal; and

(d) by when Government have decided to implement it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARJUN SHOURIE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Government has been alive to the need for rationalising its manpower and taking steps in this direction. The Ministry of Finance (Department of Expenditure) has been issuing instructions from time to time to control creation of Plan and Non-Plan posts. In August, 1999, instructions were issued by that Ministry to all the Ministries/Departments to undertake a review of all the posts which were lying vacant in the Ministries/Departments and in their Attached and Subordinate Offices, etc., in consultation with the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Ministry of Finance (Department of Expenditure). These instructions envisage that till the review is completed, no vacant posts will be filled up except with the approval of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Expenditure). Further, such Ministries/Departments as had not fully implemented the Government's decision to achieve reduction in the number of posts (as on 1.1.1992) in compliance with the across-the-board 10% cut ordered in January, 1992 were asked to fully implement the said decision immediately. As per the information available with the Ministry of Finance, about 1.6 lakh posts in various categories have already been abolished as a result of this exercise.

There is a Unit called the Staff Inspection Unit (SIU) in the Department of Expenditure (Ministry of Finance) which carries out staffing studies of various Government establishments every year. It is the main mechanism for quantitative control on the growth of staff in the Government.

**Training of Entrepreneurs in Small Scale Industry**

131. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any programme to train entrepreneurs in the Small Scale Sector;

(b) if so, what are the details of training programmes for entrepreneurs;

(c) whether any financial assistance is extended to entrepreneurs who successfully complete training programmes;

(d) the number of entrepreneurs who have obtained such training;